

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A reciprocating saw comprising:
 - a housing containing a motor;
 - a substantially flat planar monolithic carrier slidably disposed within said housing, said carrier including a first portion with a planar base and ~~extending~~ side walls extending from and continuous with said planar base defining a channel adapted to receive a saw blade and a second portion, continuous with said first portion, having a slot forming an opening through said carrier, said carrier positioned in said housing such that the plane of said planar base is in a line of cutting with the saw blade so that the plane of the line of cut is substantially parallel to the plane of the planar base;
 - a rotatable element fixed for rotation about a support and rotated by said motor; and
 - a follower for operably interconnecting said carrier and said rotatable element wherein rotation of said rotatable element provides reciprocal linear motion of said carrier whereby said follower follows a reciprocal linear path within said slot.
2. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 1, wherein said slot includes lateral walls extending from opposing edges thereof.

3. (Previously Presented) The reciprocating saw of claim 2, wherein said lateral walls include a first pair and a second pair of laterally opposed walls, said first pair of walls laterally offset from said second pair of walls by a first channel and a second channel formed in said carrier.

4. (Previously Presented) The reciprocating saw of claim 3, wherein said channels are oriented whereby said support extends therethrough as said follower follows said reciprocal linear path within said slot.

5. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 4, wherein said follower includes a slider laterally extending in a first direction a width so as to slidably interfit between said first and second laterally opposed walls and in a second direction a width greater than said channels.

6. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 5, wherein said follower further includes a roller coupled to said slider, said roller configured to rotatably interface said lateral walls as said follower follows said reciprocal linear path within said slot.

7. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 6, wherein said housing further includes a fan operable to direct air through said second portion of said carrier to said first portion of said carrier.

8. (Previously Presented) The reciprocating saw of claim 7, wherein said fan further directs air out of said housing through vents incorporated therein.

9. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 1, wherein said reciprocating saw further includes a releasably attached base portion, said base portion including a first pair of lateral rails extending therefrom for slidably engaging a second pair of lateral walls incorporated on said housing.

10. (Previously Presented) The reciprocating saw of claim 9, wherein one of said housing and said base portion further includes a latch for selectively coupling said base portion to said housing.

11. (Currently Amended) A reciprocating saw comprising:

a housing containing a motor; a saw blade having a cutting edge, a mounting edge and a side surface, said side surface defining a first plane in a line of cut with said cutting edge;

a monolithic carrier member having a first portion defining a channel adapted to receive said saw blade, said channel including a base defining a second plane and walls extending from and continuous with said base and substantially perpendicular to said second plane, wherein said first plane is parallel to said second plane and said first plane resting on said second plane, and a second portion, continuous with said first portion, said second portion having a slot forming an opening through said carrier member defining a guide path;

a rotatable element rotated by an output shaft extending from said motor;
a follower for operably interconnecting said second portion and said rotatable element wherein rotation of said rotatable element provides reciprocal linear motion of said carrier member whereby said follower follows a reciprocal linear pattern within said guide path.

12. (Previously Presented) The reciprocating saw of claim 11, wherein said second portion has lateral wall sections which include a first pair and a second pair of laterally opposed walls, said first pair of walls laterally offset from said second pair of walls by a first channel and a second channel formed in said carrier member.

13. (Previously Presented) The reciprocating saw of claim 12, wherein said channels are oriented whereby said output shaft extends therethrough as said follower follows said reciprocal linear pattern within said slot.

14. (Previously Presented) The reciprocating saw of claim 12, wherein said follower includes a slider coupled thereto, said slider laterally extending in a first direction defining a width so as to slidably interfit between said first and second laterally opposed walls and in a second direction a width greater than said channels.

15. (Previously Presented) The reciprocating saw of claim 14, wherein said follower further includes a roller coupled to said slider, said roller configured to rotatably

interface said laterally opposed walls as said follower follows said reciprocal linear pattern within said guide path.

16. (Previously Presented) The reciprocating saw of claim 11, wherein said housing further includes a fan operable to direct air through said second portion of said carrier member to said first portion of said carrier member .

17. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 16, whereby said fan further directs air out of said housing through vents incorporated therein.

18. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 11, wherein said reciprocating saw further includes a removable base, said removable base including a first pair of lateral rails extending therefrom for slidably engaging a second pair of lateral walls incorporated on said housing.

19. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 18, wherein one of said housing and said removable base further includes a latch for selectively coupling said removable base to said housing.

20. (Currently Amended) A reciprocating saw comprising:

- a housing containing a motor;
- a saw blade having a shank portion and a cutting portion;
- a carrier having a first portion adapted to receive said saw blade and a second portion, said first portion including a pair of side walls and a base portion extending therebetween;
- a clamp extending from said side walls and operable to engage said saw blade at an interface edge to retain said shank portion of said saw blade within said first portion of said carrier; and
- a cam member extending between said side walls, said cam member positioned from said base portion forming a channel to receive said saw blade, said cam member being juxtaposed to ~~extends adjacent~~ a portion of the blade between said interface edge and said cutting portion.

21. (Previously Presented) A reciprocating saw comprising:

- a housing containing a motor;
- a drive mechanism coupled to said motor;
- a carrier disposed within said housing and operable to interconnect a saw blade to said drive mechanism for translating rotational movement of said motor into linear actuation of said saw blade; and
- a releasably attached base portion, said base portion including a first pair of lateral rails extending therefrom for slidably engaging a second pair of lateral rails

incorporated on said housing, one of said housing and said base portion further including a latch for selectively coupling said base portion to said housing.

22. (Previously Presented) The reciprocating saw of claim 21, wherein said latch is biased into an engaged position against a stop extending from said base portion.

23. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 22, wherein said latch is movable between said engaged position and a disengaged position.